

GAY FASHIONS OF THE PAST

Dandies of Past Centuries Would Make Solomon Look Sad.

Compared with the gay apparel worn by the dandies of the past ages the youths of our time in the gayest of gay raiment make but a poor show.

The bishop of Ely in the fourteenth century had a change of raiment for every day in the year. The Earl of Northumberland boasted no less than sixty cloths of gold suits at this time.

In Queen Mary's time the wardrobe of a bishop must have been the envy of Solomon for the variety and costliness of its contents, and even a simple village priest wore "a vestment of crimson satin, a vestment of crimson velvet, a stole and fawn set with pearls, etc."

In the time of Chaucer the men wore clothes as many colored as Joseph's coat, so that while one leg would be a blaze of crimson the other would be tricked out in green, blue or yellow without any regard for harmony or contrast.

Even as late as the middle of the eighteenth century a dandy would dress himself in a vivid green coat, a waistcoat of scarlet, yellow breeches and blue stockings.

And the gentleman of a few years later wore, among other vagaries, a coat of light green, with sleeves too small for the arms and buttons too big for the sleeves; a pair of fine Manchester breeches without money in their pockets; clocked silk stockings; a club of hair behind larger than the head which carried it; a hat not larger than a sixpence.

It was a common thing in the early part of the eighteenth century for a man of fashion to spend several hours daily in the hands of his valet. Among the many operations which took up this time was "the starching of the beard and the proper perfuming of the garments, the painting of the face and anointing with oils, tinctures, essences and pomatums."—New York Herald.

THE FLAGEOLET.

It Has Always Been the Love Flute of the Apache Indian.

The flageolet is of peculiar interest to Americans, as from time immemorial it has been the medium through which the Indian youth courted their sweethearts at a distance when they were so unfortunate as to be unable to gain a personal audience.

The love or courting flute of the Apache is made of a round stick of cedar about twenty-four inches long, split lengthwise and hollowed to form an air chamber. A hole is made on each side of this diaphragm and a shallow air passage cut from one hole to the other.

Above it a cap of wood is placed for the purpose of covering the upper hole and the air channel. The lip is made of a thin sheet of lead and the whole bound together with a slender thong. In the tube part or body of the instrument are placed six finger holes, a condition that points unmistakably to the influence of contact with the white man.

The flageolet, as ordinarily understood, may be described as a whistle headed flute. In the seventeenth century English ladies often played on it. Sometimes two or three flageolet tubes were constructed with one head for the purpose of introducing notes in harmony. These were called double or triple flageolets, and a patent was taken out for this instrument by one Bainbridge.

An old English diary of 1687 contains this quaint reference to the double flageolet: "To Dumbleby's, the pipe-maker, there to advise about the making of a flageolet to go low and soft, and he do show me a way which to do, and also a fashion of having two pipes of the same note fastened together, so as I can play on one and then echo it upon the other, which is mighty pretty."—American Inventor.

The Call of the Wild.

Most of our song birds have three notes expressive of love, alarm and fellowship. The latter call seems to keep them in touch with one another. I might perhaps add to this list the scream of distress which most birds utter when caught by a cat or a hawk—the voice of uncontrolled terror and pain which is nearly the same in all species—dissonant and piercing. The other notes and calls are characteristic, but this last is the simple scream of common terrified nature.—John Burroughs in Country Life in America.

Carpet Cleaning.

Now is the time to clean carpets. If you want your carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid, send word to D. Douglass No. 9 Park street, Montclair. Mr. Douglass has had years of experience in carpet cleaning, and has a large patronage in this town, Glen Ridge and Montclair. Those intending to move can have their carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid on short notice. The work will be well and promptly done.—Advt.

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THE SNARLS OF TIME

POPE GREGORY'S CORRECTION OF THE JULIAN CALENDAR.

At One Time October Was the Year's Shortest Month—It Contained Only Twenty-one Days in 1582—Commemoration the Change Made in England.

Did you ever hear of the famous short month of October, which had only twenty-one days? Some three centuries ago in southern Europe men tried to correct an error that had been growing continually for more than a thousand years, and the result was that they called the day after Oct. 4, 1582, Oct. 15 instead of Oct. 5.

We get our ideas and principles regarding the calendar from two sources, Roman and Jewish. Every one knows that the names of the months are Latin, and in the histories we read how the various Roman rulers changed the distribution of days within the month, etc., to suit their pride or political schemes, much as modern politicians hasten or postpone a convention, and brought things into great confusion until Julius Caesar decreed that the coming year should consist of 365 days and every fourth year of 366. The extra day was to be inserted between the 24th and 25th of February. In their way of numbering the days of the month, which seems to us so awkward, the 24th was sexto kalendas, or the sixth day before the kalends of March. When the extra day was inserted it was called the second sixth, or, in Latin, bissexto kalendas, whence our bissextile.

From Jewish sources we get other ideas. The great Jewish festival of the passover was celebrated on the very day of the first full moon after the spring equinox. The early Christians, or many of them, took the same day, but this led to charges of heresy, to discussion, criticism and even contempt; so it was decreed probably by Constantine the Great in 325 A. D., in connection with the council of Nicea, that the Christian festival Easter should be observed on the Sunday following the passover, and the other movable feasts of the church were made dependent on this. So the element of a fixed day of the week was brought into the calculation.

In this year—325—the vernal equinox fell on March 21, and if Caesar's work in establishing the Julian calendar had only been correct, this event would have happened on this date forever. But nature seems to abhor simple ratios as she was said to abhor a vacuum. Unfortunately for simplicity the year is not exactly 365 days 4 hours, but about 11 minutes 14 seconds less. So the insertion of the extra day in four years was overdoing the correction, as was known even in the dark ages, but after the revival of learning and the establishment of observatories it was commented on in the council of Trent and was very much discussed by mathematicians.

Even by the standards of the sixteenth century the hundreds of small errors had accumulated to ten days, so the vernal equinox fell not on the 21st, but on the 11th, of March.
This was the condition of things when, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII. was elected. He realized the glory that it would be to his reign if this confusing matter was settled, and so set a committee of mathematicians to work out the problem, not only of rectifying the old errors, but of providing rules to prevent errors in the future. The hardest part of the work was to fix the movable church feasts without doing violence to the traditions. That a good deal could be said about the work is evidenced by the book of 800 pages written by Clavius, one of the company. The result was that in 1582 a papal bull was issued declaring, among other things, that in 1582 the day following Oct. 4 should be called Oct. 15 and that centuries should not be leap years unless divisible by 400.

Rulers and states that were then Catholic responded to the pope's request for acceptance of the reform. In France the ten days were dropped after Dec. 9, 1582; in Catholic Germany the change was made in 1584, but the Protestant states delayed until Feb. 19 (March 11, 1600). In Switzerland and Poland there was such resistance made that the troops were necessary to suppress it.

The change was long delayed in Protestant England, which would not willingly accept an alleged reform due to a pope that had encouraged the armada. But the need of the uniformity among neighboring states was too great, and in 1751 Lord Chesterfield introduced into parliament a bill for the reform of the calendar. Some details of the law may be quoted from a magazine of September, 1752: "Sept. 14—This day the Gregorian style took place in all Europe, Asia, Africa and America. This day, had not this act passed, would have been the 3d of September, but it was now reckoned the 14th, eleven nominal days being omitted. Every fourth year will be a bissextile, or leap year, until 1800, which will be a common year of 365 days, but 1804 will be a leap year. Easter and the movable feasts thereon depending are to be reckoned according to the new tables annexed to the act of parliament. All the fixed feast days * * * are to be kept on the same nominal day as heretofore. Payment of rent notes, * * * the attainment of majority or expiration of apprenticeships * * * shall not be accelerated hereby. * * * If servants' wages are usually paid at the quarter days, eleven days' wages may be deducted out of the present quarter and the reckoning for the future go regularly on." Such were some of the minute provisions of the act. It will be readily believed that ignorant people could not understand this, and we are told of mobs marching through the land crying, "Give us back our eleven days!"

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Women's Underwear—White ribbed union suits at a special price during this sale. Low neck styles—lace bottom pants—regular price 49c per suit, special at..... 38c
Women's Underwear—White ribbed cotton vests in low neck styles—finely made and finished—kinds that are sold regularly for 12½c each—sale price special..... 9c
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